



American Academy of
Orthopaedic Surgeons®

AAOS

American Association of
Orthopaedic Surgeons

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Dear Doctor

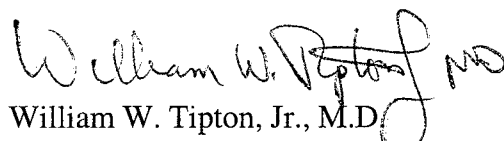
I am writing to inform you of a study, using selected physicians and surgeons, conducted as the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has, for over 20 years, conducted this unique continuing study which has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice.

Continued support of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and its individual fellows selected to participate in the survey by the NCHS are indispensable for the success of this research program. Your participation will help provide increased knowledge regarding the epidemiology of disease and referral patterns in the ambulatory setting, assess health facility and work force requirements, and help identify any desirable modification in medical education programs. The Academy has used data from the NAMCS in an epidemiologic study, *Musculoskeletal Conditions in the United States*, as well as in other studies of office-based practice.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in finalizing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of record keeping and time involved and maximizes the utility of the data collected. In addition, strict confidentiality provisions are to be maintained with only summary data published and made available to the medical profession, health planners and researchers and the public.

I am confident that all will find the information derived worth the individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested. We can look forward to obtaining results of the research study.

Sincerely,


William W. Tipton, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice President and
Chief Executive Officer

WWT:SD

